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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/510,974	02/21/2000	Rex Petersen	10001834	1706

7590 01/18/2002

Hewlett- Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
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Fort Collins, CO 80528-9599

EXAMINER

WHITMORE, STACY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2812	

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/510,974	PETERSEN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Stacy A Whitmore	2812

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2000 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ .
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- I. Claim 1 recites the limitation ""said path"" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
 - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

1. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ho (6,128,768).
2. As for claim 1, Ho taught a method for VLSI chip design comprising the steps of: estimating signal routes between functional blocks [abstract - connectivity based database....organized by net -; col. 1, lines 29-40; col. 4, lines 44-59;];

determining R and C values for the estimated signal routes; and building a model of said signal paths including R and C values [col. 5, lines 34-45; col. 5, line 66 - col. 6, line 7, and lines 24-33].

3. As for claim 2, Ho taught foliating nodes in estimated signal routes [col. 5, line 9, and col. 6, line 45, see also fig. 9, technology and interconnection sections].

As for claim 3, Ho taught generating a connectivity netlist from said model [col. 5, lines 18-26].

4. As for claim 4, Ho taught said step of estimating is performed based on input of a floor plan and a connectivity description [col. 4, lines 43-59].

5. As for claim 5, Ho taught said step of estimating is performed in response to one or more control factor inputs [col. 5, lines 61-66].

6. As for claim 6, Ho taught said control factor input specifies a signal routing algorithm [col. 10, lines 6-10].

7. As for claim 7, Ho taught said step of estimating is performed based on input of signal path configuration parameters [col. 10, lines 6-10].

8. As for claim 8, Ho taught said signal path configuration parameters specify one or more signal path material, physical size of signal path material or spacing [col. 10, lines 6-10].

9. As for claim 9, Ho taught step of estimating is performed in response to one or more control factor inputs [col. 10, lines 6-10].

10. As for claim 10, Ho taught said control factor input specifies a signal routing algorithm [col. 10, lines 6-10].

11. Claims 11-20 are apparatus claims which have correspondingly similar limitations as claims 1-10, and are rejected for the same reasons as cited in the rejection of claims 1-10.

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

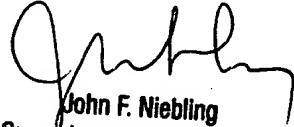
6,189,131	Graef
6,182,269	Laubhan
6,286,126	Raghaven
5,974,247	Yonezawa
5,901,063	Chang
5,896,300	Raghaven
5,629,860	Jones
6,117,182	Alpert
6,099,578	Itoh
5,475,607	Apte

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stacy A Whitmore whose telephone number is (703) 305-0565. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternate Friday 6:30am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling can be reached on (703) 308-3325. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Stacy Whitmore
January 17, 2002



John F. Niebling
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800